

Claims 10-11 are amended, and Claims 15-16, 20, and 22 are canceled. Because the scope of the pending claims would be reasonably ascertainable to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the specification, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 are satisfied. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 15, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,625,465 (Kirt). The rejection is respectfully addressed with respect to new Claims 23-25.

Kirt discloses an assembly for use with a honing tool in reconditioning the cylinder bores of an internal combustion engine block. Kirt does not disclose dry cutting an interior of a cylinder bore without a lubricant and then directly apply a thermally-sprayed tribological layer to the surface. Because Kirt does not disclose each and every element of the claimed processes, the pending claims are not anticipated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,625,465 (Kirt) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,004 (Palazzolo). The rejection is respectfully addressed with respect to new Claims 23-25.

Palazzolo does not overcome the deficiencies of Kirt. Palazzolo discloses a method of treating a light metal cylinder bore wall to receive a thermally-sprayed metallic coating. The method comprises machining or milling cylinder bore surface 13 using a cutting tool 14. Cooling fluid 16 is usually sprayed directly onto the tool end surface during the cutting operation. Honing is then

performed as tool 17 is used against surface 13 and is flushed by machining fluid 18 (col. 3, lines 1-5). After roughening, the surface is washed with a cleanup solution (col. 3, line 52 – col. 4, line 20).

Any combination of Kirt and Palazzolo would require the use of a cleaning solution after roughening and prior to application of a thermally-sprayed layer. Nether Kirt nor Palazzolo teaches or suggests directly applying a thermally-sprayed tribological layer to the surface of the cylinder bore, without cleaning or degreasing. Thus, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the claimed processes in view of the teachings of Kirt and Palazzolo. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/48098).

Respectfully submitted,

February 25, 2002



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